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THE CRAG

Once I was a crag crowning the peak's sharp crest,
My red flanks bared to the golden sun,
My sharp-serried comb breaking the loose-textured low-fleeting clouds;

And once I was the sudden swift-moving shadow upon the crag,
Fallen from a white high-sailing cloud.

Once I was the cone-heavy tree upon the crag,
Tossing long needles in the wind,
Breathing sweet fragrance to the air;

And once I was the glistening spider's thread spun deftly from needle to needle.

These I was once—
Unthinking,
Untroubled by whence or whither or why;
Knowing not
Of yesterday, tomorrow, today,
Of loneliness, desire, or love, or joy:
Thus I was once.

And once I was the blue, blue sky above,
And made men glad.

Louise Mallinkrodt Kueffner